Shortage of officers in Armed Forces

1212. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force) are suffering from acute shortage of officers;

(b) if so, over past five years, how many officers have sought a discharge/voluntary retirement, rank-wise;

(c) what were reasons for their disenhancement from Armed Forces;

(d) what is up-to-date position of vacancies in officers cadre, force-wise; and

(e) what steps are being taken to stop this exodus?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) There has been a shortage of officers in the Armed Forces for quite some time. The extent of shortage of officers in the Armed Forces is as follows:-

Army	Navy	Air Force
11387	1512	1400

During the last five years, 4300 officers of Army, 1177 officers of Air Force and 1096 officers of Navy have sought premature retirement/resignation. Premature retirement is considered on the grounds of non-empanelment, supersession, permanent low medical category and compassionate grounds.

A number of steps have been taken to motivate the service personnel to continue in service and to attract the talented youth to join the Armed Forces. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) are now eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively. The tenure of SSC officers has been increased from 10 years to 14 years. A total number of 750 posts of Lt. Colonel have been upgraded to Colonel towards implementation of AV Singh Committee Report (Phase-I). Further, 1896 additional posts in the ranks of Colonel, Brigadier, Major General and Lieutenant General and their equivalent in the other two Services have been upgraded towards implementation of AV Singh Committee Report (Phase-II). The implementation of recommendations of the VI Central Pay Commission with substantial improvements, in the pay structure of officers of Armed Forces will also go a long way in making the Services more attractive.

One rank one pension to Ex-servicemen

1213. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has promised to ex-servicemen one rank one pension;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken so far to keep the promise; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?